



Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans

MEMORANDUM

TO: Owner/Installer of Drive-Point Well

FROM: Well Management Section

PHONE: 651/201-4600

SUBJECT: Requirements for Well Owners Installing Drive-Points

The Minnesota Groundwater Protection Act of 1989 (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103I) is the law which regulates well construction in Minnesota. In most cases, the law requires that a well must be installed by a licensed well contractor. However, a license is not required for a well owner to install his own well under certain circumstances. Minnesota Statutes, section 103I.205, subdivision 4, state that:

"... a license is not required for a person who complies with the other provisions of this chapter if the person is an individual who constructs a well on land that is owned or leased by the individual and is used by the individual for farming or as the individual's place of abode"

Although an individual may install his own well, the installation must be done in accordance with the law (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103I) and rules (Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4725) regulating well construction. A brief summary of regulations for drive-point well construction is attached.

A notification form is also attached. This form must be completed and returned to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) within 10 days after completion of a drive-point well. Upon receiving the notification, the MDH will send you a water well record form and a water sample bottle with instructions. The water well record should be completed and returned with the water sample to the MDH. The water sample will be analyzed for sanitary quality and results reported to you at no charge.

If you have any questions, please contact the MDH at 651/201-4600 or 800/383-9808.

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Attachments

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Requirements for Construction of a Drive-Point Well

- Well must have at least 15 feet of watertight casing (not including screen).
- Well casing (pipe) must be new steel casing meeting one of the following standards: ASTM A53, ASTM A589, or API 5L.
- When driving casing, a cone-shaped depression must be maintained around the outside of the casing and kept filled with bentonite clay.
- If augering, jetting, or other drilling techniques are used which create a hole which is larger than the well casing, the space between the well casing and bore hole wall must be filled from the bottom up to the surface with a cement or bentonite grout pumped through a tremie pipe. Please contact the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) for additional details on grouting requirements before you begin well construction.
- Top of the well casing must extend at least 12 inches above-ground.
- Connections made to the well casing below the ground surface or less than 12 inches above the ground surface must be made with a pitless adapter or pitless unit approved by this department.
- If the water line between the well and pump is below-ground and under suction, it must be protected by being installed within an outer, concentric pipe with the annular space between the pipes filled with water from the system and maintained at system pressure.
- If your attempt to construct a well is unsuccessful, the unsuccessful well must be sealed by a licensed well contractor. Unlicensed persons are not authorized to seal wells or remove well casing from the ground.
- A well must not be located in a pit.
- Well must not be located within a building, except for a building constructed exclusively to protect the well, pump, and other water supply equipment. A well building may not be used to store materials or chemicals which may contaminate the well.
- Well must be located at least 3 feet horizontally from the farthest exterior projection of a building, including roofs, decks, and overhangs.
- Well must be at least 10 feet from a gas line, electric line, or propane tank, or at least 5 feet from a gas line which contains no flammable gas or an electric line which has been shielded or deenergized.
- Well must be located at least 50 feet horizontally from the ordinary high-water mark of a river stream, lake, or pond.
- Well casing must extend at least 5 feet above the regional flood level.
- Well must be disinfected using chlorine, and water quality samples must be collected and analyzed for coliform bacteria and nitrate.

CHAPTER 4725
RULES RELATING TO WELLS AND BORINGS
EFFECTIVE MAY 10, 1993

ISOLATION DISTANCES FROM A SHALLOW DRIVE-POINT WELL

This list is summarized from Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4725, and Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103I. Please contact the Minnesota Department of Health, Well Management Section at 651/201-4600 or 800/383-9808 with any questions.

BUILDING OR BUILDING PROJECTION (OVERHANG)	3 FEET
GAS PIPE, ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE LESS THAN 50 KV	5 FEET ¹
LP TANK	5 FEET ¹
FROST PROOF YARD HYDRANT	10 FEET
APPROVED AIR-TESTED BURIED SEWER	20 FEET
APPROVED, AIR-TESTED BURIED PRESSURE SEWER SERVING A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE	20 FEET
PIT OR UNFILLED SPACE	20 FEET
WATERTIGHT SEWAGE SUMP	20 FEET
IN-GROUND SWIMMING POOL	20 FEET
ABOVE GROUND PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK LESS THAN 1100 GALLONS	20 FEET
STORM WATER DRAIN PIPE 12 INCHES OR GREATER IN DIAMETER	20 FEET
AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL SUPPLY TANK	20 FEET ²
ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE IN EXCESS OF 50 KV	25 FEET
AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL STORAGE OR PREPARATION AREA WITH SAFEGUARDS COVERED WITH A ROOF, MORE THAN 25 GALLONS OR 100 POUNDS DRY WEIGHT	50 FEET
GRAVE	50 FEET
INTERCEPTOR (WASTE)	50 FEET
SEPTIC TANK, HOLDING TANK	50 FEET
SEWAGE LIFT STATION, NONWATERTIGHT SEWAGE SUMP	50 FEET
UNDERGROUND PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK OF LESS THAN 1100 GALLONS	50 FEET
UNUSED, UNSEALED WELL OR BORING	50 FEET
POLLUTANT, CONTAMINANT OR HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE	50 FEET
ORDINARY HIGH WATER LEVEL OF A STREAM, RIVER, POND OR LAKE	50 FEET
BURIED COLLECTOR, MUNICIPAL, PRESSURIZED, OPEN JOINTED, OR UNAPPROVED MATERIALS SEWER	50 FEET
AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL STORAGE OR PREPARATION AREA WITH SAFEGUARDS, MORE THAN 25 GALLONS OR 100 POUNDS DRY WEIGHT	100 FEET
ANIMAL FEEDLOT	100 FEET
ANIMAL FEEDING OR WATERING AREA WITHIN A PASTURE	100 FEET
ANIMAL OR POULTRY BUILDING	100 FEET
PETROLEUM OR HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE STORAGE TANK WITH SAFEGUARDS, MORE THAN 25 GALLONS OR 100 POUNDS DRY WEIGHT	100 FEET
SUBSURFACE DISPOSAL FIELD (DRAINFIELD)	100 FEET
PRIVY	100 FEET
AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL, PETROLEUM, OR HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE STORAGE OR PREPARATION AREA, MORE THAN 25 GALLONS OR 100 POUNDS DRY WEIGHT	150 FEET
CESSPOOL, SEEPAGE PIT, LEACHING PIT, DRY WELL (SEWAGE)	150 FEET
SANITARY LANDFILL, DUMP, WASTE STABILIZATION POND	150 FEET
MANURE STORAGE AREA	200 FEET

¹ A WELL BETWEEN FIVE AND TEN FEET OF AN ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE, GAS PIPE OR LP TANK MUST BE PLACARDED AND WORK MUST NOT BE PERFORMED ON THE WELL UNLESS THE LINE IS DEENERGIZED AND GROUNDED OR SHIELDED, AND THE GAS PIPE OR LP TANK DOES NOT CONTAIN FLAMMABLE GAS.

² THE 20 FOOT DISTANCE APPLIES ONLY TO AN IRRIGATION WELL AND AN AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL SUPPLY TANK (CHEMIGATION) PROTECTED WITH SAFEGUARDS.

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(Please tear off the notification form below and return to the Minnesota Department of Health, Well Management Section, P.O. Box 64975, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0975)

Complete and return to: Minnesota Department of Health, Well Management Section
P.O. Box 64975, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0975

DRIVE-POINT WELL NOTIFICATION

Well
Location:

County Name

Township Name

Well Location Street Address

City

Property Owner Name

Property Owner Daytime Phone Number with Area Code

Property Owner Mailing Address

Property Owner Signature

Date

MDH Use Only

Date Rec'd

Twp. No.

N
or
S

Range No.

E
or
W

Section No.

Fraction No.
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Failure to provide proper notification is a violation of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103I, and may result in the assessment of an administrative penalty.